

Melanoma Differentiation Associated  
Gene - 5 Promoter and Uses Thereof

Abstract of the Disclosure

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The invention provides for an isolated nucleic acid encoding Mda-5 polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:1. A polypeptide having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2. The present invention provides for an isolated *Mda-5* promoter capable of directing transcription of a heterologous coding sequence positioned downstream therefrom, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of: (a) a promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 ; (b) a promoter comprising a nucleotide sequence functionally equivalent to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3; and

15 (c) a promoter comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to a sequence complementary to the promoter of (a) or (b) in a Southern hybridization reaction performed under stringent conditions. The invention provides for a host cell comprising the recombinant expression construct as described herein. The

20 invention further provides for a method for treating cancer in a subject suffering therefrom which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a recombinant expression construct comprising: (a) a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a selected polypeptide; and (b)

25 an *Mda-5* promoter nucleotide sequence operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule of element (a), wherein the coding sequence will be transcribed and translated when in a host cell to produce the selected polypeptide, and the *Mda-5* promoter is heterologous to the coding sequence and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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